

Amendment to the Specification:

On page 1, after the paragraphs entitled "CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS" inserted by the Preliminary Amendment filed February 14, 2005, please insert the following new paragraph:

- - BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION - -

On page 1, after the paragraph entitled "BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION", please insert the following new paragraph:

- - 1. Field of the Invention - -

On page 1, before the last paragraph, please insert the following new paragraph:

- - 2. The Prior Art - -

On page 2, between the first and second full paragraphs, please insert the following new paragraph:

- - SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION - -

On page 7, before the first full paragraph, please insert the following new paragraph:

- - BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS - -

On page 7, before the last full paragraph, please insert the following new paragraph:

- - DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS - -

On pages 7-8, please replace the paragraphs bridging pages 7-8 with the following rewritten paragraph:

The gearbox-side shaft segment 2 of the longitudinal shaft 1 ends, on its side facing away from the central articulation 4, in a gearbox-side articulation 5, while the second shaft segment 3 has a differential-side articulation 6 at its end facing away from the central articulation 4. The shaft segments 2 and 3 are configured as sheet-metal tubes, whereby the tube that forms the

gearbox-side shaft segment 2 of the longitudinal shaft 1 is connected with the outer hub 7 of the gearbox-side articulation 5, which hub is configured as a shaped sheet-metal part, by way of ~~a weld seam 8~~ weld seams 8a, 8b, and is welded to a hollow shaft journal 9 on its side facing the central articulation 4. The tube that forms the differential-side shaft segment 3 of the longitudinal shaft 1 is connected with the outer hub 11 of the central articulation 4, or the outer hub 12 of the differential-side articulation 6, respectively, which are both configured as shaped sheet-metal parts, by way of weld seams 10a and 10b, respectively.

On page 11, please replace the first full paragraph with the following rewritten paragraph:

In addition, the inner hub 15 can be displaced relative to the outer hub 7 or 11, by the length  $l_2$ , on the inner hub 15 to the position indicated with 14c in the drawing, while the balls 14 are rolling, when the balls rest against the delimitation stop 26 connected with the outer hub. In this connection, the maximal movement of the balls 14 on the inner hub 15 is limited by means

of split rings 27.

On pages 13-14, please amend the reference symbol list as follows:

#### **Reference Symbol List**

- |                 |   |
|-----------------|---|
| 1               | longitudinal shaft                                    |
| 2               | gearbox-side segment of the longitudinal shaft 1      |
| 3               | differential-side segment of the longitudinal shaft 1 |
| 4               | central articulation                                  |
| 5               | gearbox-side articulation                             |
| 6               | differential-side articulation                        |
| 7               | outer hub of the articulation 5                       |
| 8 <u>8a, 8b</u> | weld <del>seam</del> <u>seams</u>                     |
| 9               | journal   |
| 10a             | weld seam   |
| 10b             | weld seam   |
| 11              | outer hub of the articulation 4                       |
| 12              | outer hub of the articulation 6                       |
| 13              | cage of the articulations 4 and 5                     |

14 ball of the articulations 4 and 5

14a displacement position of the ball 14

14b displacement position of the ball 14

14c displacement position of the ball 14

15 inner hub of the articulations 4 and 5, respectively

16 central bore of the inner hub 15

17 plug-in tooth system

18 inner hub of the articulation 6

19 ball of the articulation 6

20 cage of the articulation 6

21 insert

22 bore of the inner hub 18

23 plug-in tooth system of the inner hub 18

24 journal of the differential input shaft

25 ball bearing unit

26 limitation stop

27 split ring

28a protective sheet metal piece

28b protective sheet metal piece

28c protective sheet metal piece

29a folded bellows

29b            folded bellows

29c            folded bellows

**IN THE ABSTRACT**

         Please replace the existing Abstract with the amended  
Abstract attached as a separate sheet hereto.